

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 03712 01 OF 02 191701Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 191620Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4894

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 3712

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY US

SUBJECT: GOC EXPLAINS MAKARIOS AFP INTERVIEW

REF: (A) STATE 280087, (B) NICOSIA 3703, (C) NICOSIA 3670

1. FONMIN DIRGEN PELAGHIAS CALLED CHARGE IN NOVEMBER 19 TO ASK FOR TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ALLEGED REMARKS ON CYPRUS IN WILLIAMSBURG PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B). AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION OF THAT SUBJECT, HE LAUNCHED INTO WHAT WAS CLEARLY AN INSTRUCTED RESPONSE TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S CONVERSATION WITH AMB DIMITRIOU (REF A) AND RECALL OF AMB CRAWFORD TO WASHINGTON.

2. PELAGHIAS SAID THAT GOC DEPLORES THE STORY REPORTED REF B WHICH IS TYPICAL OF RECENT PRESS ATTACKS ON DR KISSINGER. THE GOC HAS THE GREATEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR DR KISSINGER AND FURTHER, HAS NO WISH TO INTERFERE IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RECOGNIZING THAT THE CURRENT MISUNDERSTANDING BEGAN WITH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' NOV 17 AFP INTERVIEW, PELAGHIAS SAID SUBSEQUENT DIPLOMATIC REPORTING HAS OVER-AXAGGERATED THE GOC POSITION, CAUSING, PERHAPS, SOME OVER-REACTION ON THE PART OF THE US.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 03712 01 OF 02 191701Z

3. PELAGHIAS SAID THAT "KISSINGER PLAN" PARA OF AFP

INTERVIEW WAS NOT IN ANY WAY INTENDED TO BE AN INSULT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT MERELY TO REFLECT GOC BELIEF THAT NOW IS NOT OPPORTUNE TIME TO PUT FORWARD ANY SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR SOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM.

4. PELAGHIAS WENT ON TO SAY THAT TWO WORDS IN THE ENGLISH TEXT (ISSUED BY GOC PIO) OF THE AFP INTERVIEW HAD BEEN MISTRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK. THE SENTENCE WHICH READS, "BUT THE US SECRETARY OF STATE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CYPRUS IN THE PAST DOES NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE THAT HIS PLAN WOULD FORM A GOOD BASIS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM", SHOULD READ: "BUT THE US SECRETARY OF STATE'S POSITION TOWARD CYPRUS IN THE PAST DOES NOT MAKE ONE FEEL SURE THAT HIS PLAN...." POINT IS THAT WORD "STASIS", WHICH WAS TRANSLATED "ATTITUDE", SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED "POSITION." THIS MEANS THAT ARCHBISHOP WAS TAKING ISSUE WITH SECRETARY'S PAST POLICIES AND NOT CASTING ANY SLUR ON SECRETARY'S ATTITUDE. MISTRANSLATION OF GREEK IDIOM "EB-NAY-EE EBISTOSININ" WHICH IMPLIED LACK OF "CONFIDENCE" IN SECRETARY SHOULD HAVE BEEN READ TO MEAN A LACK OF CERTAINTY THAT THE PLAN IS A GOOD BASIS FOR A SOLUTION. THE LAST SENTENCE OF THAT PARAGRAPH, WHICH NOTES THAT SECRETARY IS RETIRING, WAS INTENDED TO BE MATTER-OF-FACT STATEMENT REFLECTING THAT WHOEVER PROPOSES PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO CONDUCT SOME TYPE OF "SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON IMPLEMENTATION--A ROLE SECRETARY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY.

5. GOC, SAID PELAGHIAS, HAS NEVER MADE A SECRET OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MANY ISSUES ON WHICH IT DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE SECRETARY. MOST IMPORTANT ARE ISSUES OF ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY AND NECESSITY FOR SIGNATURE OF TURKISH DCA. GOC ACCEPTS THAT THIS IS A QUESTION OF JUDGEMENT. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT US ADMINISTRATION SINCERELY BELIEVES THAT BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH TURKS IS FROM A POSITION OF COOPERATION AND NOT ONE OF APPARENT EXERCISE OF PRESSURE. IN EQUALLY SINCERE FASHION, GOC BELIEVES JUST THE OPPOSITE.

6. PROBLEM HAS BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT SOME AMBASSADORS, NAMELY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, HAVE ADDED OIL TO THE FIRE BY MISQUOTING REACTION OF GOC OFFICIALS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NICOSI 03712 01 OF 02 191701Z

TO CURRENT SENSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND GOC. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE BRITISH REPORT THAT GOC OBJECTS TO AUTHOR, NOT SUBSTANCE OF PRINCIPLES (REF C). HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT AND, IMPLYING HE KNEW SUBSTANCE OF REF C, SAID THAT BEFORE REPORTING HICOM GORDON'S IMPRESSION OF LATTER'S CONVERSATION WITH HIMSELF, WE SHOULD HAVE CHECKED WITH HIM TO GET HIS SIDE OF THE STORY. IN FACT, HE HAD ONLY MEANT THAT, AS ARCHBISHOP HAD SAID,

PRINCIPLES SHOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED BY A PERSON WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WORK ON IMPLEMENTATION.

7. FINALLY, PELAGHIAS SAID HE WANTED TO ASSURE THE US THAT THE GOC HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF US, HOPES THAT INTERCOMMUNCL TALKS WILL RESUME AFTER JANUARY 1977, AND ALSO HOPES THAT SOMETHING LIKE KISSINGER PRINCIPLES WILL FORM AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CONTENT OF THOSE TALKS. HE REPEATED THAT WHILE THE GOC HAS HAD GENUINE POLICY DIFFERENCES WITH USG IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CYPRUS POLICY, IT HAS NEVER INTENDED TO INJECT ANY CONNOTATION OF PERSONAL ANIMOSITY BETWEEN ANY MEMBER OF THE GOC AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. MOST IMPORTANTLY, PELAGHIAS SAID, GOC RECOGNIZES THAT USG IS ONLY COUNTRY THAT CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND IT IS GOC POLICY TO MAINTAIN CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH USG. RESULTS OF US ELECTIONS HAVE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUINITY TO INTENSIFY THIS POLICY IN A WAY THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS, GOC IS NOW MAKING PLANS TO CONDUCT A MORE ACTIVE PROGRAM TO DEMONSTRATE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. PELAGHIAS (PROTECT ON THIS POINT) CONFIDED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT CODE NAME FOR PROGRAM IS "FRIENDSHIP ATTACK" (SHADES OF "POLICY OF CARESS*").

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03712 02 OF 02 191705Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 3712

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9. CHARGE THANKED PELAGHIAS FOR HIS REMARKS AND FOR

CLARIFICATION OF AFP INTERVIEW. HE NOTED THAT THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AS ISSUED BY PIO CERTAINLY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT KISSINGER PLAN PARA WAS A PERSONAL ATTACK ON SECRETARY, AND NOTED FURTHER THAT PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IN RECENT WEEKS WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT THIS INTERPRETATION. PELAGHIAS' REJOINDER WAS THAT THE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE WAS MORE A RESULT OF THE FACT THAT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL OCCASIONS FOR EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH GOC OFFICIALS IN PAST FEW WEEKS. THEIR REMARKS ABOUT MAKARIOS' LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME AT ALMOST ANY TIME IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, SO NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE FACT THAT THEY WERE MADE DURING THIS ADMITTEDLY SENSITIVE PERIOD.

10. COMMENT: PELAGHIAS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE DIRECT INSTRUCTION OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE AMBASSADOR(S) RECALL AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S CONVERSATION WITH AMB DIMITRIOU STRUCK HOME IN TERMS OF INDICATING US DISPLEASURE WITH GOC PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY. WE BELIEVE THAT US COMPLAINT ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS NOTED WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS, OUR EVIDENCE BEING FACT THAT PELAGHIAS MENTIONED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 03712 02 OF 02 191705Z

THIS SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONVERSATION.

11. WE ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY PELAGHIAS' SEMANTIC EXPLANATION OF ARCHBISHOP'S TRUE MEANING OF AFP INTERVIEW TWELVE DAYS AFTER FACT. IN FIRST INSTANCE, WHILE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TRANSLATE "STASIS" AS "POSITION", "ATTITUDE" IS FIRST TRANSLATION IN OUR DICTIONARY. IDIOM FOR "INSPIRE CONFIDENCE" IS "EB-NAY-EE EBISTOSININ", PRECISELY THE FORM USED IN GREEK LANGUAGE TEXT OF AFP INTERVIEW.

12. IN SUM, IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS MIGHT NOW FEEL THAT THIS AFFAIR HAS GONE TOO FAR AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR GOC TO TAKE A FEW BACKWARD STEPS WITHOUT MAKING ANY OBVIOUS OR PUBLIC RETRACTIONS OF ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENTS.
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